

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA, RABBIT & SCIROCCO

DESCRIPTION

Rear suspension is a link type with MacPherson type suspension struts. Suspension uses control arms and torsion beam for stabilization. Control arm and torsion beam are combined as one unit.

Shock absorbers are mounted inside suspension strut tubes, with coil springs surrounding the outside of the tube. Struts are attached to control arm at the bottom and to vehicle body at the top.

ADJUSTMENTS

WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

See *Wheel Alignment Specifications & Procedures* in **WHEEL ALIGNMENT** section.

WHEEL BEARING

Tighten hub nut to 7.5 ft. lbs. (10 N.m), while rotating brake drum by hand. Determine the bearing play by testing the force needed to move thrust washer. Light pressure should move thrust washer. Turn hub nut until correct pressure is obtained.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

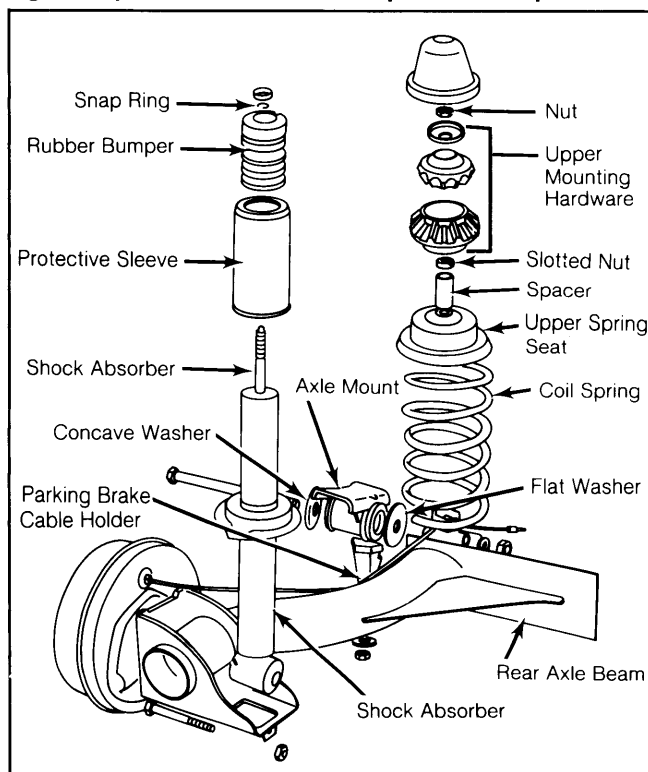
STRUT ASSEMBLY

Removal

1) With vehicle on floor. Take off plastic cap covering strut upper retaining nuts. Remove nuts.

2) Slowly raise vehicle until weight is off spring. Remove bolt retaining lower end of strut shock

Fig. 1: Exploded View of Rear Suspension Components



absorber to axle beam mount. Raise vehicle until strut can be removed.

Disassembly

Place strut assembly in vise. Hold piston rod and remove strut retaining nut. Take off components down to slotted nut. Remove slotted nut. Take off spacer and coil spring.

Inspection

Hand check shock absorbers for even resistance through entire piston stroke. Worn shock absorbers cannot be overhauled. If coil spring is being replaced, ensure that paint stripe color code on replacement spring matches original spring code.

Reassembly

1) Fit protective cap on shock absorber. Install rubber buffer, with small diameter end downward. Insert snap ring and washer.

2) Place spring into lower seat. Fit upper retainer with spacer sleeve. Tighten slotted nut retaining piston rod. Put on upper mounting hardware and tighten piston rod.

Installation

To install, reverse removal procedures.

SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY

Removal

1) With vehicle on floor. Disconnect upper strut mount. Raise vehicle and support with safety stands.

2) Disconnect parking brake at holder near axle mount. Disconnect and plug brake lines. Leave flex hose attached to suspension.

3) Separate brake pressure regulator spring from axle beam, (if equipped). Remove both nuts retaining axle beam on each side to body.

Installation

1) If axle beam mounting has been removed, use *Fig. 2* to correctly adjust mounting pad. If pad is not correctly aligned, torsional preload of mounting bushings will be incorrect.

2) Position rear suspension on body. Install nuts retaining axle beam to body. Raise wheel and guide upper end of strut into body mount.

3) Connect parking brake cables. Connect brake lines. Lower vehicle and tighten upper strut retaining nuts. Bleed brake system.

AXLE BEAM PIVOT BUSHING

Removal

1) This procedure is for replacing bushing with axle beam installed. Raise vehicle and support with safety stands under vehicle body.

2) With no pressure on beam, remove nuts retaining axle beam to body and tap out pivot bolt.

3) Press out bushing. Select new bushing and press bushing into place.

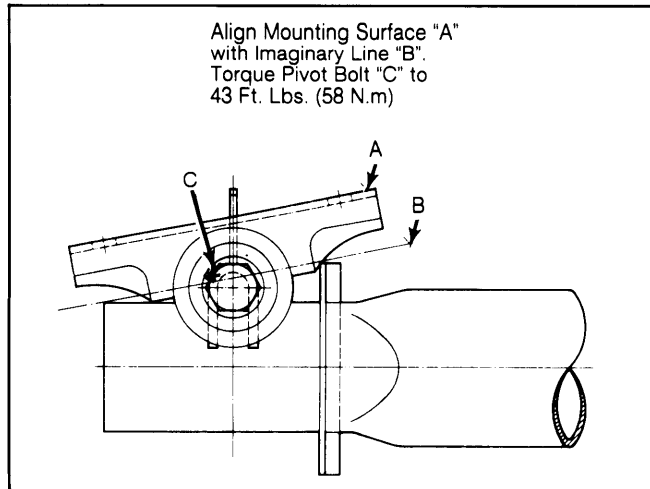
Installation

Loosely install mounting on axle beam. Concave washer and bolt head must face toward outside of vehicle. Bolt head must recess into washer. Align mount as shown in *Fig. 2*. Tighten pivot bolt nut. Lower Vehicle.

Rear Suspension

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA, RABBIT & SCIROCCO (Cont.)

Fig. 2: Correct Alignment of Axle Beam Mounting Pad



TIGHTENING SPECIFICATIONS

Application	Ft. Lbs. (N.m)
Coil Spring Retainer-to-Piston Rod	14 (19)
Rear Axle Beam-to-Mounting Pad	43 (58)
Rear Axle Mounting-to-Body	32 (44)
Shock Absorber-to-Axle Beam	32 (44)
Shock Absorber-to-Body	26 (35)
Shock Absorber Slot Nut	15 (20)